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January 27, 2005

Dockets Management Branch Food and Drug Administration Room 1061 5630 Fishers Lane Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir/Madam;

Enclosed, please find petitions signed by over 650 students, faculty and staff from Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ. We object strongly to the FDA's continued support to the outdated criteria for not giving blood if "you are a man who has had sex with another man since 1977, even once." The criteria is not only homophobic but completely irrational since all the blood in the US blood supply is stringently tested for HIV and many other blood transmitted diseases.

We will no longer allow blood drives on our campus as long as this criteria remains in place. We know that blood is a gift of life but it should be allowed to be given by gay men as well.

Sincerely,

Prof. Jim Bumgardner

Cc: Senator Jon Corzine Senator Frank Lautenberg

Enc.

Bergen

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rare Opportunities. Shared Dreams.

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The most common reasons for not being able to give blood

Temporary reasons

Length of time before you can give blood
until symptoms are over
until symptoms are over
fourteen days after symptoms are over
twelve months after return
when treatment is complete if taken for infection
one month after taking last dose
six months after taking last dose
three years after taking last dose
contact us for Medical Eligibility at 1-800-688-0900
twelve months after procedure unless done under sterile conditions
twelve months after procedure
twelve months after receiving blood
six weeks after delivery
six weeks if after the first trimester (12 weeks)
when healing is complete and feeling well
two months after vaccination
after completion of treatment
twelve months from date of release
twelve months following diagnosis and treatment
twelve months after last incident
twelve months after last incident

Permanent reasons

Please do not give blood if you:

- · Have used illegal drugs with a needle, even once
- Are a man who has had sex with another man since 1977, even once
- · Are a hemophiliac
- Have ever had a positive antibody test for HIV (AIDS virus)
- Are a man or woman who has had sex for money or drugs any time since 1977
- Have had viral hepatitis or a positive test for viral hepatitis any time after your eleventh birthday
- Have had certain forms of cancer (contact us regarding medical eligibility at 1-800-688-0900)
- Have had babesiosis or Chagas disease
- Have taken Tegison for psoriasis
- Have Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and/or an immediate member of your family has CJD

Notes

- Most people with diabetes, and most people on medications other than those noted above, are eligible to donate blood. For specific Medical Eligibility guidelines, call us at 1-800-688-0900.
- Federal guidelines may exclude people who have lived in or have travelled to or from certain countries outside of the United States.
- The reasons for not being eligible to donate blood may have changed after this brochure was printed.

An Urgent Request: Please do not give blood to find out your HIV (AIDS virus) test results. If you need information on where to go for confidential HIV testing, please call your local health department.



DONATE BLOOD NOW.
PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE WITHO

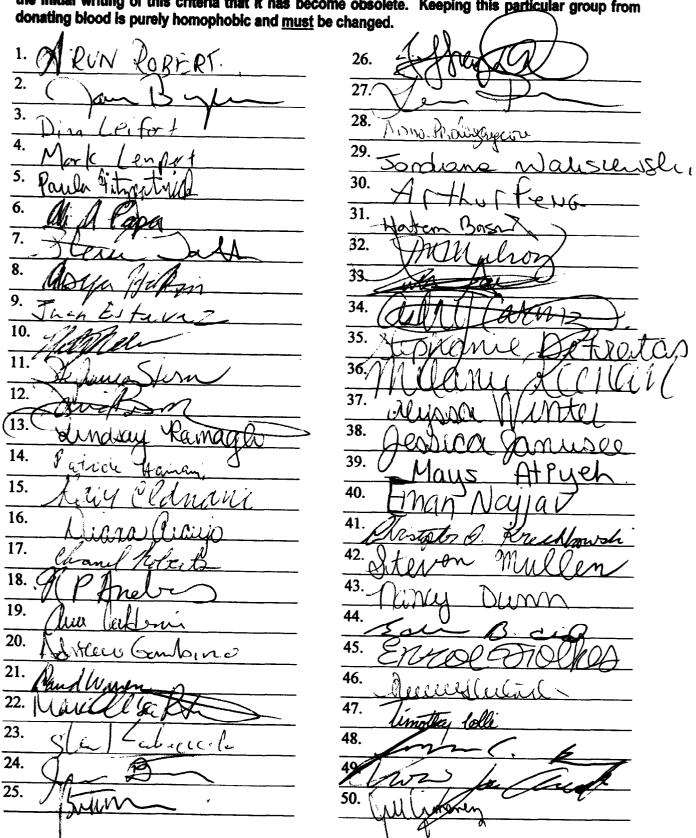
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Blood Services
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